

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed April 6, 2007, have been carefully considered. In response thereto, Applicant amends the claims and elects the invention and species as follows:

Claims 1-121 are pending. Claim 23 have been amended to be recite consistent language.

The Examiner sets forth a restriction requirement between Groups I-V as set forth on page 2 of the above-referenced Office Action.

Applicant elects, with traverse, Group II, claims 23-45 and 117-121, drawn to a method of forming a hydrogel *in situ*.

Additionally, the Examiner sets for a species election requirement as set forth on page 6 of the above-referenced Office Action.

Accordingly, in addition to electing Group II above, Applicant elects, with traverse, the species of "a copolymer."

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the groups and species relate in some manner to hydrogel formation; and therefore, there is not a substantial burden of an additional search in order to examine all the claims of the invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the restriction and species election requirements.

In the event there are any questions relating to this Amendment and Response or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

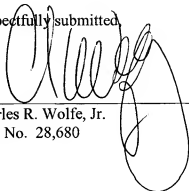
Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (111828-00110). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this response, Applicants hereby petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) for an extension of

time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Date: April 23, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By:



Charles R. Wolfe, Jr.
Reg. No. 28,680

BLANK ROME LLP
Watergate
600 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20037
Telephone: (202) 772-5800
Fax: (202) 572-1400